



Granite Falls Lutheran News Summer 2021

Time...and Reason...to Sing!

*By the time you get this we will soon be mask-free for all who desire. We'll be able to shake hands and even hug, if that is required, needed, and desired. We'll be able to gather and sing! From a song by **Earth, Wind and Fire**:*

*“Bring your heart to believing, Sing a song, it'll make your day.
Life ain't about no retrieving, Sing a song, it'll make a way.
Give yourself what you need, Sing a song, it'll make your day.
Smile, smile, smile and believe, Sing a song, it'll make a way.
Sing a song!”*

*Don't let the opportunity to come back to church and enjoy singing and doing so with others be robbed by your summer absence! As of June 13th, all of our masking, social distancing and other requirements will be relaxed. If you have not received a COVID19 vaccination, are immunosuppressed, or have other underlying health concerns we still encourage you to exercise caution and use a mask and limit your possible exposure. Most importantly, if you choose to do so, we welcome you with no assumptions or judgments: we are glad to have you back **no matter the circumstance!** So let us “Singasong!” (If you are interested in hearing “Singasong” by **Earth, Wind and Fire**, simply Google it up or look on YouTube.)*

We've come so far in the eleven months since I came, by the grace of God and the hard work of so many of you. The light at the end of the tunnel grew brighter and wider, until we have burst out into the light of Summer! Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

A Schedule Change for Summer

During the summer months. Pastor Paul and I will both be taking Friday and Saturdays off in order to have an extra day with each other during the week to facilitate planning for the upcoming programming year. We will still be handling all weddings and funerals when they are scheduled on these days, and one of us will be on call at all times as well.

“Here We Grow” After-School Ministry Update

There will be an IMPORTANT prospective parent meeting regarding the proposed After-School Ministry, to get your comments and feedback 7pm on Wednesday evening, June 2!



Worship in Summer

Worship with us on Sunday Mornings at 9:00am via Facebook Live.

"Come let us worship together as we sing praises to our God and grow in faith together."



Sunday, June 6, - Second Sunday of Pentecost
Outdoor Worship
Holy Communion
Scripture: Mark 3:20-35

Sunday, June 13, - Third Sunday of Pentecost
Scripture: Mark 4:26-34

Sunday, June 20, - Fourth Sunday of Pentecost
Holy Communion
Scripture: Mark 4:35-41

Sunday, June 27, - Fifth Sunday of Pentecost
Polka Worship Service
Scripture: Mark 5:21-43

Sunday, July 4, - Sixth Sunday of Pentecost
Holy Communion
Scripture: Mark 6:1-13

Sunday, July 11, - Seventh Sunday of Pentecost
Scripture: Mark 6:14-29

Sunday, July 18, - Eight Sunday of Pentecost
Holy Communion
Scripture: Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Sunday, July 25, - Ninth Sunday of Pentecost
Scripture: John 6:1-21

Special Services Coming up this Summer

- June 6 - Installation of Church Council and committee members, new member Sunday
- June 16 - Pet Blessing Wednesday Night Outdoor Worship - 7:00 pm
- June 27 - Polka Worship Service
- July 14 - Wednesday Night Outdoor Worship.

Online Worship Services

Worship services will continue to be livestreamed on the GFLC Facebook page.

If you are unable to tune in live, the services will be posted to Facebook and YouTube after being streamed.

Our services also continue to be aired on the local cable channel 8 on Sundays at 7:00 PM.

GFLC Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/GFLCGFMN/>

GFLC YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/gflcMNeIca/feed>

**WESTERN FEST
POLKA
WORSHIP
SUNDAY,
JUNE 27,
9:00AM**



**BRING A
FRIEND OR
FELLOW POLKA LOVER!**

GFLC...75 Years And Counting! Part 5: The South Church

WHILE MOST PEOPLE THINK OF THE "NORTH CHURCH" AND THE "SOUTH CHURCH," TO THE PEOPLE WHO BROUGHT THEM INTO EXISTENCE, THE CHURCHES HAD MORE THAN GEOGRAPHIC IDENTITIES, AND LIKE THE GOOD NORWEGIANS THAT THEY WERE, THE PEOPLE WHO LEFT THE UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH TO BEGIN ANEW WANTED TO REMIND OTHERS WHO WAS THERE FIRST, SO THEY NAMED THEIR NEW CHURCH FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH. ORGANIZED IN 1893, THIS CHURCH WANTED TO ADHERE TO THE MORE STRICT ORTHODOXY OF THE OLD NORWEGIAN SYNOD. THE SPLIT ORIGINATED IN WHO AND HOW NEW MEMBERS FROM "OTHER" CHURCHES SHOULD BE ACCEPTED, AND THE FEAR THAT THEY WOULD CAUSE DISSENSION. ANOTHER POINT OF CONTENTION HAD TO DO WITH HOW PASTORS WOULD BE CALLED, AND FROM WHAT SYNOD OR TRADITION THEY CAME FROM.

BY SEPTEMBER OF 1893, TWO LOTS HAD BEEN PURCHASED AS A BUILDING SITE (WHERE THE CURRENT CHURCH NOW SITS). BECAUSE OF FINANCES, IT TOOK TIME TO FINISH THE CHURCH: THE CORNERSTONE WAS LAID IN 1904, AND THE CHURCH WASN'T DEDICATED UNTIL 1908, WITH THE CONGREGATION WORSHIPPING IN AN UNFINISHED CHURCH FOR QUITE SOME TIME. DURING THE LIFE OF THIS CONGREGATION, THE PASTORAL LEADERSHIP CHANGED MORE FREQUENTLY: PASTOR LEE WAS THE ORGANIZER, FOLLOWED BY PASTOR CHRISTENSON (1896-1901), PASTOR CLAUSON (1901-1908), PASTOR SVARE (1908-1917) AND FINALLY PASTOR WROLSTAD (1918-1940). IN 1910 THE CONGREGATION PURCHASED A PARSONAGE WHICH SERVED THE CONGREGATION FOR 30 YEARS. AT THIS TIME, THE CONGREGATION RAISED THE CHURCH STRUCTURE AND BUILT A BASEMENT/FOUNDATION UNDERNEATH, WITH MEETING SPACE, KITCHEN EQUIPMENT AND A HALL FOR DINING. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE SERVICES, BEGUN EVERY THIRD SUNDAY, AND EVENING, BEGAN IN 1911. THE COUNCIL EVEN APPROVED HOLDING JOINT WORSHIP SERVICES WITH THE UNITED LUTHERAN PASTORS. ENGLISH BECAME THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE DURING THE GREAT WAR.

YET THE WINDS OF CHANGE THAT CREATED FIRST LUTHERAN WERE STILL BLOWING: IN 1917, THREE NORWEGIAN CHURCH BODIES VOTED TO UNITE THE HAUGE SYNOD, UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH, AND NORWEGIAN SYNOD COMBINED INTO THE "NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA." NOW THE NORTH AND SOUTH CHURCH BELONGED TO THE SAME CHURCH SYNOD, BUT THAT DIDN'T MEAN THEY WERE READY FOR COOPERATION. IN 1917, FIRST LUTHERAN REJECTED UNIFICATION, THEN AGAIN IN 1919 AND 1920. DURING THESE TIMES AND DURING THE DEPRESSION, PASTOR WROLSTAD GUIDED THE CONGREGATION DILIGENTLY. HE WAS FOLLOWED BY PASTOR JOHNSON (1940-1943), WHO GUIDED THE CONGREGATION DURING THE BEGINNING OF WW2, AND INTO TALKS WHICH LED TO THE FINAL VOTE TO MERGE THE TWO CONGREGATIONS IN 1941. IT TOOK TWO YEARS (DURING THE WAR) TO REACH FINAL AGREEMENTS REGARDING THE CALL COMMITTEE AND DISPOSITION OF LAND. THE STAGE WAS SET FOR A NEW BEGINNING.

Boundary Waters Canoe Trip

We're sending a group off to the Boundary Waters this summer! On June 28th, (changed from June 16th) our intrepid expedition will be making the journey up to Wilderness Canoe Base, which is located at the very end of the Gunflint Trail. We will be in for a week of adventure, fellowship, and fun! The Boundary Waters is an amazing place for faith formation, and we all look forward to that! Please pray for us as we journey. If this trip seems interesting to you (regardless of your age), consider reaching out to me (pastorpaul@granitefallslutheran.com) for next year's trip!

Pastor Paul



GFLC Church Council Minutes

May, 11, 2011

Present: Chad F., Larry T., Elaine H., Pat K., Dave H., Kelly O., Terri, D., Pastor M and Pastor Paul

I. **Opening:** Chad called the meeting to order, Vision & Mission Statement were read, and the Agenda and previous meeting minutes were approved.

II. **Financial Business:** Financial Secretary report approved. 4/30/21 checkbook balance of \$40,202.

III. **Committee Reports or Business:** (see message board next to chapel for written reports.)

A. Property & Grounds: Motion by Terri, second by Karla to approve \$14,400 for the purchase of 6 Lakeaire LA@-RC2-HUV air cleaner/purifiers from Lakeaire. Passed. Val will determine which account the purchase will come from. Suggestion to put line item in budget for maintenance (filters, etc.).

B. Property & Grounds: Motion by Karla, second by Shawnn to approve Fagan, Inc. to removed spalted concrete from the boiler room ceiling and obtain an estimate to complete the repair. Passed.

IV. **Other Church Council Business:**

A. Pastor's Reports: see message board

B. Church Services:

1. Semi-Annual Meeting went well.

2. May 16 will be the Anniversary Kick-Off Worship, using the Black Hymnal from the '40's.

C. Policy & Other Updates:

1. Custodian Update: Joe's status is still unknown. A part-time position will be advertised to allow some flexibility for Karla & Scott. (*NOTE: This has been revised.*)

2. COVID Policy: (*NOTE: This is dealt with at a subsequent special council meeting.*)

3. Building Use Policies: will be reviewed and brought to council.

4. Staff Handbook: Holiday policies were approved by the Executive Committee.

V. **Church Council Business/Old Business**

A. Audit Committee: all firm recommendations from the audit committee are being implemented. The suggestion portions of the audit are being addressed.

B. Here We Grow After-School Ministry: Pastor M plans to hold a parental information meeting for GFLC members on May 26th (alternate date June 2nd).

C. Membership: no membership changes this month.

D. Sound Training and Volunteers: the Executive Committee decided to suspend the \$60/week radio slot and use those funds to offset the cost of hiring sound technicians to run the sound system.

E: Our insurance company has a \$200 training program which can be used to guide us through the process of developing a church security plan. (*NOTE: has been ordered and received*)

VI. **Adjournment:** the meeting was adjourned and we prayed The Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting: June 8, 2021, 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted: Pat Kubly, Secretary.

Minutes Edited and Redacted by Pastor M

Pr. M and Pr. Paul are visiting again!

With the recent changes in recommendations from the CDC, Pastor Manning and Pastor Paul are visiting folks again. If you or someone you know could use a visit, please reach out to the church office (reception@granitefallslutheran.com) or give us a call at 320-564-3746! We would love to come by and see how you are doing.

Pilgrimage

This summer I will be going on a trip to Greece, to go bikepacking with my fiancée. I'm quite excited to follow in the footsteps of my namesake, the Apostle Paul. St. Paul spent time in Athens and Corinth, both of which are on our planned route. The early Christian church took root in Greece, and as a result there is a rich Christian history of almost two millennia of churches, monasteries, artifacts, and pilgrimage sites. I have found it so valuable to spend time in those sites of historical significance. During my trip bikepacking around Western Europe, I was able to visit many of the historical sites associated with Martin Luther, including the Lutherhaus (where Luther lived most of his life), Worms (where Luther kicked off the Protestant reformation), and Wartburg castle (where Luther hid from the Pope's assassins). It's a surreal experience to be in the same spot as the individuals we've told stories about for generations. Those visits helped me to see the reality of God working in the world, through flawed people, to create a better Kingdom. While none of my travels have been pilgrimages in the traditional sense, they all have elements of pilgrimage in them. At some point I would like to visit the Holy Land and adventure around in the place of Jesus' ministry, but that will have to wait until Israel ceases its sinful practices and policies towards the Palestinian people.

There is something special about moving under your own power, having to take each step, or each pedal stroke for yourself. Moving under your own power gives you time to reflect, to pray, to meditate on the path behind and the path to come. Human powered journeys have been a crucial part of my faith life, and they will continue to be going forward! I look forward to sharing stories from my travel in Greece with all of you upon my return. Safe journeys this summer!

Pastor Paul



May Ministerial Acts

Funerals

Audrey Carlson - May 11th

Trevor Luepke - May 12th

ESPRESSO TIME

Espresso Time will be the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at the church, with appropriate social distancing, for those who are comfortable.

For the safety of all, if you are not feeling well, please stay home.



Book Club

We are meeting again for our Book Club on June 24th, 7:00pm, at the Bluenose Gopher Public House. We will be reading 'Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents' by Isabel Wilkerson. The book was published in 2020, and quickly won acclaim from a variety of sources, staying on the NY Times best seller list for 35 weeks. In



'Caste,' Wilkerson dives deeply into America's core problem with racism, and explains in vivid detail how America's understanding of race matches up with the Indian idea of caste. This is a difficult book to read, as Wilkerson explains America's original sin through painful examples and a broader narrative. However, it is an excellent book, and one that I (Pastor Paul) keep turning to despite the difficulty. Please consider ordering the book and reading along with us!

Stewardship: Making Some Sense from the Numbers

At our last meeting, members of the Stewardship & Finance Committee asked, "Do people understand how the finances work at church?" The consensus was that, "Well, some do, but most don't..." This article is an attempt to help make sense of those numbers.

For every month there is a Statement of Financial Position. This reflects a snapshot of our financial position, generally on the last day of the previous month (or year), in comparison to the last financial statement issued (generally the last day of the month before). It reflects balances in asset and liability funds, and their changes. The **Assets** include the General Checking Fund—unrestricted funds which the church can use to meet its daily and monthly, budgeted obligations. There are also Savings & Investment Accounts, a Building Fund Account, "Dedicated Accounts" and our substantial Endowment Funds: all of these are limited in our ability to access them, use them for unplanned expenses or have donor restrictions on their use. Balancing these assets are our **Liabilities**, which would include such items as Building Fund Loans, certain Payroll Withholding Accounts, and unpaid Line-of-Credit balances. At the moment there are no such liabilities!

For every month there is a Statement of Dedicated Accounts. This statement reflects activity during the previous month in accounts which generally have a specific purpose, or reflect a gift from a specific source or person. While they are not all limited in their use, they generally reflect either donor or church intentions not already accounted for in the General Checking Fund. They reflect dedicated-use, or 'committed' funds (such as the Altar Guild), General Committed Funds such as the Building Fund, the variety of Endowment Committee-managed funds, and General Uncommitted Funds such as the Roof Repair Fund. An important feature of these funds is that they generally require Church Council or Endowment Committee approval for their use.

For every month there is also a Statement of (Financial) Activities, generally for the month or period ending on the last day of the previous month. This statement reflect **financial activities that occurred during the previous month to fund our ministry,** mostly budgeted, and mostly from our General Checking Fund (see above). There is **General Income** (cash, checks, loose plate and electronic giving) and **Special Income** (Thrivent Choice Dollars, Interest, rental income and misc.). Balancing this (hopefully) are a variety of budgeted **Expense Categories:** Executive Committee (compensation-related), Worship/Music, Education, Youth, Outreach, Stewardship/Finance, Property/Grounds, Contingency Fund, and Benevolence. *Each of these categories has a number of specific sub-accounts which reflect budgeted ministry priorities, and any changes in the past month due to their use.* Churches are somewhat unique: they draw up a plan for expense and believe that their members will fund it without any billing, membership notices, or dues being required. That means that we need to be extra transparent in our use of your gifts, our audit and money-handling procedures, and attention to the mission and ministry budget of this church. **It also means that thanks-giving is the basis of who we are.**

Vacation Bible School

After a year gap due to COVID-19, the Education Committee is excited to announce VBS will be happening this summer! Our dates are August 9th to August 12th, and it is open for all kiddos (member or not) entering 1st thru 6th grades. The children who have done this in the past have had an absolute blast, and we expect the same fun experience this year! VBS will be happening at GFLC from 9:00am to 2:30pm, and children will be provided lunch and a snack.



We will be having staff from Shetek Bible Camp come to lead VBS, and could really use some volunteers to help out! This would be a wonderful experience for High Schoolers, retired folks, stay-at-home parents, or anyone looking to help either prepare food or help lead children. You can volunteer for one to four days, whatever works for your schedule.

Registration will be completely online. Registration Deadline is July 25th.

To Register:

Go to www.shetek.org, click on Register, then create an account. (if you don't already have one) During registration you will be asked for a Group Hold ID (GHR ID): Enter: GraniteDay Fill out the required forms.

NOTE: there is a medical form to fill out during the two weeks prior to the start of camp. If campers don't bring this completed form to camp with them, they will not be able to attend. This is a Shetek Day Camp requirement. That is why there is a hard deadline of July 25th for registration.

If you would be interested in volunteering, please contact the church office at reception@granitefallslutheran.com or 320-564-3746.

A BLESSING OF PETS AND ANIMALS WORSHIP

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

7:00PM



The Blessing of Animals is closely associated with the celebration of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, held on October 4. Many Roman Catholic churches include a Blessing of Animals on this day or on the Sunday closest to it. We celebrate and give thanks for ALL animals in June, not just pets or 'human animals. We will gather in the church parking lot or grass on the west side of the church depending on the weather. Please use bags to clean up pet waste. If your pet needs more space or needs to move around that's fine, but please keep them on a leash for the safety of all. We welcome all humans to our Holy Communion table if you take communion in your church. We hope you enjoy this event as much as we have enjoyed planning it.

June 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Executive Committee Meeting	2 6:30 PM Education Committee Mtg	3	4 Office Closed PASTOR MANNING OUT PASTOR PAUL OUT YME Graduation	5
6 9:00 AM Worship Service Council & Committee New Members installation	7	8 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Outreach Committee Mtg 6:30 PM Worship/Music Committee Mtg 7:30 PM Council Meeting	9	10 2:30 PM Espresso Time	11 Office Closed PASTOR MANNING OUT PASTOR PAUL OUT Synod Assembly	12 Bredeson/E Wedding
13 9:00 AM Worship Service	14	15 10:30 AM Staff Meeting	16 7:00 PM Outdoor Pet Blessing Worship Service	17 6:30 PM Stewardship Committee Mtg	18 Office Closed PASTOR MANNING OUT PASTOR PAUL OUT	19
20 9:00 AM Worship Service	21	22 9:00 AM Sewing Day 10:30 AM Staff Meeting	23 9:00 AM Sewing Day	24 2:30 PM Espresso Time	25 Office Closed PASTOR MANNING OUT PASTOR PAUL OUT	26 Western Fest Community Celebration
27 9:00 AM Worship Service Polka Worship	28 Pastor Paul at Boundary Waters Canoe Trip	29 10:30 AM Staff Meeting	30			

SUMMER WORSHIP LEADERS

JUNE

	6/6/2021	6/13/2021	6/20/2021	6/27/2021
Greeters	Tim & Susie Johnson	Mark & Joanelle Sannerud	Dave & Amy Nordaune	Jon & Pam Redetzke
Usher Team	Mark Jensen	Jeff Koepke	Scott Bjorndal	Stan Santjer
Reader	Mark Sannerud	Kaye Thorkelson	Jon Tjosvold	Darlene Santjer
Communion Assistant	X	X	Shawnn Martin Dana Baldry	X

JULY

	7/4/2021	7/11/2021	7/18/2021	7/25/2021
Greeters	Kathy Hendrickson & Norma Iverson	Scott & Karla Bjorndal	Lori Carter & Rachel Hagen	Shawnn & Erica Martin
Usher Team	Keith Knudson	Scott Santjer	Scott Jans	Craig Opdahl
Reader	Beth Sneller	Kathy Anderson	Chad Friese	Craig Bakkelund
Communion Assistant	Kathy Hendrickson Dick Jepson	X	Les Bergquist Rita Christianson Amy Hoernemann	X

AUGUST

	8/1/2021	8/8/2021	8/15/2021	8/22/2021	8/29/2021
Greeters	Susie Johnson & Pat Kubly	Stan & Darlene Santjer	Mark & Joanelle Sannerud	Norma Iverson & Karla Bjorndal	Dave & Amy Nordaune
Usher Team	Doug Peterson	Mark Jensen	Jeff Koepke	Scott Bjorndal	Stan Santjer
Reader	Patrickia Lubeck	Dana Baldry	Amy Hoernemann	Sue Bergquist	Connie Peterson
Communion Assistant	Peg Heglund Di Lalim Karla Bjorndal	X	Jon Tjosvold Nicolle Kotek Darlene Erickson	X	X

Want to Sign Up for Electronic Giving?

Go to the Granite Falls Lutheran Website. (www.granitefallslutheran.com) On the home page you will see a link titled "Give Online" towards the upper right part of your screen. From there you will be able to complete the easy sign-up. This is a simple way to pre-arrange offerings to the church.

Direct link to Simply Giving sign up:

click [here](#)

June Birthdays

1	Clark Anderson	9	Merrick Aus	16	Gustave Linden	23	Nevaeh Chaparro
1	Donald Knutson	9	Aaron Fagen	16	Vernon Olson	23	Amy Richter
2	Vicki Aalderks	9	Debra Foy	17	Reese Lecy	23	Orrvin Torke
2	Baylor Anderson	9	Christopher Martinson	17	Victoria Sandberg	24	Julie Buchholz
2	Donald Finnes	9	Rachel Steenerson	18	Maverick Balfany	24	Arianna Foy
2	Mary Paulson	10	Betty Korthuis	18	Allan Burthus	24	Elvin Peterson
2	Kenneth Timm	10	Nicolle Kotek	18	Madison Hempel	25	Heidi Bakkelund
3	Mark Anderson	11	Lois Henke	18	Jason Ims	25	Amara Foy
3	Scott Bjorndal	11	Amy Peterson	18	Ginny Olson	25	Tracy Peterson
3	Jaden Gorres	12	Johnny Mensink	18	Nicole Wilkening	26	Evan Christianson
4	Betty Knutson	12	Nick Richter	19	Paytan Vonderharr	26	Rita Kessler
4	Samantha Halvorson	13	Bruce Hildahl	19	Dennis Enstad	27	Ellery Anderson
5	Stacey Balfany	13	Gail Rohlik	19	William Miller	27	Rosina Halverson Studer
5	James E. Erickson	14	Steven Anderson	20	Delores Helgeson	27	Luke Hauger
5	Bradley Monson	14	William Balfany	20	Dellis Kietzmann	27	Diane Hoffeig
5	Melissa Syring	14	Lisa Olson	20	Chad Schuler	27	Susie Johnson
6	Todd Gullickson	14	Aria Peters	20	Tyler Syring	27	Carrie Knudson
7	Devin Ladwig	15	ElDora Pederson	21	Woody Tollefson	27	Dale Lalim
8	Betty Erickson	16	Kipton Erickson	22	Rachel Hauger	29	Sheryl Walters
8	Charl Hardy	16	Evan Fagen	22	Jon Martinson	29	Jaime Wilkening
9	Kari Anderson						

July Birthdays

1	Ethan Fagen	10	Diana Foy	18	Madelyn Bronson	24	Marlys Swam
1	Kathryn Knutson	10	Deborah Ladner	18	Linda Hildahl	25	Linnea Balfany
1	Luke Sannerud	10	Nash Richter	18	Gunval Knudson	25	Gregory Massmann
2	Gavin Torvik	11	Barbara Agre	19	Cindy Baker	25	Sawyer Nerdahl
3	Cora Christianson	11	Ashley Parliament	20	Susan Bergquist	25	Kalli Sannerud
3	Paul Sheggeby	12	Harland Hagen	20	Andrew Flaten	25	Connie Schuler
4	John Eckhardt	12	Eric Soine	20	Karen Frahm	26	Terry Alstad
4	Todd Lecy	13	Shaun Bestland	20	Hailey Enstad	26	David Hagen
6	Mark Stuhr	14	Thomas Agre	21	Jack Baker	27	Patrick Hoernemann
7	Robert Lecy	14	Chase Bjorndal	21	Debra Oscarson	27	Madeline Johnson
7	Nancy West	14	Brock Fromm	22	Gail Aus	28	Keith Sandberg
8	Sherry Hagelstrom	14	Tabby Niemeyer	22	Kingsley Richter	29	Kim Kranitz-Savig
8	Shirley Leyse	15	Kiersten Luepke	22	Raelin Enstad	30	Lori Anderson
8	Richard Olson	15	Ryan Brouwer	23	Ella DeKam	30	Marjorie Bottge
8	Sharon Schuler	16	Paul Enstad	23	Steven Nordaune	30	Linda Halvorson
8	Karla Slettedahl	16	Case Johnson	23	Teresa Stenersen	30	Marjorie Hegna
9	Joan Taylor	16	Andrew Soine	24	Donna Alstad	31	Sheila Lavoie

August Birthdays

1 Amber Fromm	9 Ronald Fromm	18 Mark Sannerud	25 Saraya Burgeson
1 Richard Heggestad	9 Amy Hagen	18 Keith Sorenson	26 Diane Fagen
1 Karen Lemcke	9 LaDonna Stock	18 Lauren Tjosvold	26 Owen Fromm
2 Shawnn Martin	9 Andrew Winter	19 Scott Hegna	26 Ryann Kleinhuizen
3 Vicki Bakken	10 Evan Friese	20 Benjamin Hauger	26 Eli Parliament
3 Jonas Zempel	10 Lynette Manee	21 Rebecca Koepke	27 Diane Peterson
4 Kaylee Luepke	10 Reese Blankenhagen	21 Jennifer Lecy	27 Alexis Uecker
4 LaVonne Olsen	11 Karen Henning	21 Andrew Monson	28 Bonnie Erickson
4 Jon Redetzke	12 Di Lalim	22 Elenora Knutson	29 Paul Krogstad
5 Finn Hempel	13 Dwayne Erickson	23 Trenton Balfany	29 Jane Schaffran
5 John Pederson	13 Mary Kietzmann	24 Mark Enstad	30 Myron Hagelstrom
5 Hunter Wilke	14 Melissa Fagen	24 Angie Knollenberg	30 Tamara Moe
6 Charlene Gullickson	16 Meghan Bredeson	24 Nevaeh Zieske	30 Kyrstin Reimann
8 Evan Knudson	16 Alden Lund	24 Jerry Kleinheksel	31 Audrey Hanson
8 Randy Peyton	16 Michael Martin	25 Harlow Fromm	31 Frank Kranitz
8 Kyle Ryer	16 William Schindler	25 Tadd Ihnen	31 Alan Zempel
8 James Skjefte	16 Kristin Wilke		

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as you know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 15:58

With this dedication, began the new life of Granite Falls Lutheran Women as members of the Granite Falls Lutheran Ladies' Aid on June 7, 1945. They came together that day from four dissolved groups which had poured their treasuries into a common fund: The First Lutheran and United Lutheran Ladies' Aids, and the Priscillas and United Lutheran Club. The latter two organizations represented the younger women of the respective congregations, who held evening meetings because many of them were employed.

Now, 75 +1 years later, we the women of the GFL WELCA are proud to continue this work. We're fortunate to have had so many wonderful women lead the way and we rejoice in the willingness of the present membership to 'step up to the plate' when asked to help as needed. To quote Eldoris Hustad, the 1971 president, *"The important things in life ...aren't things.*

(Copies of the history of the Granite Falls Lutheran Church Women 1945 - 1980, can be found on the back table in the narthex.)

The following is a list of the new or gently used items **sizes 6-24 months** that are needed for the LWR Child Care Kits to be assembled in the fall; donations may be left in the collection box in the narthex.

- ◇ cotton T-shirts lightweight (we can use Onsies)
- ◇ gowns or sleepers
- ◇ tops and pants
- ◇ jackets, sweaters, or sweatshirts with a hood,
- ◇ baby caps
- ◇ hand towels (dark colors)



Coming Events:

- **Quilting:** June 22 & 23, 9:00-12:00 - Group 6 to furnish snacks
- **Dinner at Your Door:** June 20 - 26 - Education Committee and Youth
August 2-6 - Group 7

COVID-19 UPDATE

As many of you know, recently the CDC changed its guidance on masking in public. The current recommendation is that fully vaccinated individuals may choose to not wear a mask in public spaces, and may resume living as they did prior to the pandemic. Individuals without the vaccine are still supposed to mask when interacting with others inside, stay six feet apart from anyone outside their household, and avoid crowds. If you have not gotten the vaccine yet, please consider getting one. I (Pastor Paul) have buried multiple members who have died of COVID-19, and would like to stop burying beloved members of this church. Getting vaccinated is one way we can show love for our neighbor, as Jesus commands us (Matthew 25:37-39).

We had a special Council meeting on 5/17 in order to respond to these changes issued by the CDC and MDH. Collectively, we discussed the positive and negative aspects of each path forward. After some discussion, a plan of action was formed. May 30th, and June 6th, we will worship outside. Masks are optional, as we have learned it's very difficult to spread COVID-19 outside. Please bring your own chair to both of these outside services, as that is more comfortable for you and easier for cleanup. June 13th, we will worship indoors, and return to pre-pandemic worship guidelines (no masks required, no social distancing, and return to pre-pandemic communion practices for communion Sundays). We will continue to livestream our Sunday worship service indefinitely.

If you see a person who is masking during worship, please give them at least 6 feet of distance when possible. We have many members of our congregation who have compromised immune systems and might feel more comfortable masking for a while. As with most human interactions, consent is key. If you're not sure if someone is willing to shake hands, just ask 'can I shake your hand?' We're going to be in a bit of limbo for the next few months, but hopefully we can use this time to practice asking each other questions. I'm quite excited to preach without a mask or shield for the first time in almost a year! God has been guiding us this whole time, and we continue to ask for prayers for church staff, church council, and for all of us as a congregation. May God be with each one of you.

We are looking for help running our sound system!

This would be a paid position, and a great opportunity to earn some money and get some job experience. We are hoping to get a rotation of folks trained in our sound system so that each member of the sound team can get some Sundays off. No prior experience is required, however an interest in audio is helpful. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Paul at pastorpaul@granitefallslutheran.com.



We hope to hear from you soon!

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